WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image-effect apparatus, comprising:

an intermediate image generator which acquires a first image, a second image and a corresponding point file for the first image and the second image and generates an intermediate image between the first image and the second image; and

a speed controller which controls an operation of said intermediate image generator with respect to a speed at which the intermediate image is generated.

2. An apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a speed specifying unit which receives from a user a desired speed, wherein said speed controller controls said intermediate image generator according to the desired speed.

3. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said intermediate image comprises a plurality of intermediate images and said speed controller controls the number of intermediate images generated by said intermediate image generator.

4. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the corresponding point file describes lattice points of a mesh

taken on the first image and a positional relation of points in the second image which correspond to the lattice points.

5. An apparatus according to Claim 4, further comprising a display unit which displays the first image, the intermediate image, and the second image as a moving picture.

6. An image-effect apparatus, comprising:

an image input unit which acquires a first image and a second image;

a matching processor which computes a matching between the first image and the second image and then outputs a matching result as a corresponding point file;

an intermediate image generator which generates an intermediate image between the first image and the second image based on the corresponding point file; and

a speed controller which controls said intermediate image generator with respect to a speed at which the intermediate image is generated.

7. An apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein said matching processor generates the corresponding point file in a manner such that a destination polygon in the second image corresponds to a source polygon of a mesh defined on the first

image.

8. An apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein said matching processor performs a pixel-by-pixel matching computation based on correspondence between a critical point detected through a two-dimensional search on the first image and a critical point detected through a two-dimensional search on the second image.

9. An apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein said matching processor initially multiresolutionalizes the first image and the second image using the critical points then performs the pixel-by-pixel matching computation between related multiresolution levels while also inheriting a result of a pixel-by-pixel matching computation at a different multiresolution level in order to acquire a pixel-by-pixel correspondence relation at a finest resolution level at a final stage.

10. An apparatus according to Claim 7, further comprising a communication unit which outputs the corresponding point file to an external unit.

11. An apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein said intermediate image comprises a plurality of intermediate

images and said speed controller controls the number of intermediate images generated by said intermediate image generator.

12. An apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein said intermediate image comprises a plurality of intermediate images and said speed controller controls the number of intermediate images generated by said intermediate image generator.

13. An image-effect apparatus, comprising:

an intermediate image generator which acquires a first image and a second image which are extracted, as frame images, from a motion picture, and also acquires a corresponding point file between the first image and the second image, and then generates one or more intermediate images between the two images by performing an interpolation computation thereon;

a speed controller which controls said intermediate image generator with respect to a speed at which intermediate images are generated; and

a speed specifying unit which receives from a user a specification with respect to said speed at which the intermediate images are generated,

wherein said speed controller controls the number of the

intermediate images generated by said intermediate image generator according to the specification from the user.

14. An apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein the number of intermediate images generated is substantially greater than the number of slow motion frame images capable of being generated by an image shooting apparatus which captured said motion picture.

15. An apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein said speed specifying unit, said speed controller and said intermediate image generator operate even during generation of intermediate images such that said intermediate image generator changes a number of the intermediate images generated according to the specification from the user.

16. An apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein the motion picture is distributed via a network and further comprising:

a sampling unit which extracts images as samples from the motion picture and which stores the extracted images; and

a selecting unit which selects the first and second images from said extracted images based on a request from the user for slow motion images.

17. An apparatus according to Claim 16, wherein said selecting unit selects a currently displayed image as the second image and selects an image from a predetermined period of time earlier as the first image.

18. An apparatus according to Claim 13, further comprising:

a sampling unit which continuously records images; and a selecting unit which allows the user to select the first image and the second image from among the continuously recordal images.

19. An apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein the user specifies two timings representing the times of the first image and the second image.

20. An image-effect method, comprising:

acquiring a first image and a second image, which are extracted, as frame images, from a motion picture, and also acquiring a corresponding point file between the first image and the second image;

generating one or more intermediate images between the first image and the second image by performing an interpolation computation based on the corresponding point file;

acquiring a user's instruction with respect to a speed at which the intermediate images are to be generated; and

controlling the number of intermediate images which are generated according to the instruction.

21. A method according to Claim 20, wherein said controlling includes increasing the number of the intermediate images such that the number of intermediate images generated is substantially greater than a number of slow motion frame images capable of being captured by an image shooting apparatus which captured said motion picture.

22. A computer program executable by a computer, the program comprising the functions of:

acquiring a first image and a second image, which are extracted, as frame images, from a motion picture, and also acquiring a corresponding point file between the first image and the second image;

generating one or more intermediate images between the first image and the second image by performing an interpolation computation based on the corresponding point file;

acquiring a user's instruction with respect to a speed at which the intermediate images are generated; and

controlling the number of intermediate images which are generated according to the instruction.